

REMARKS

This is in reference to the Office Action mailed on 01/28/2009.

As a preliminary matter, it appears that the examiner may have examined the originally filed PCT claims, rather than the claims as amended during PCT examination. The amended claims set, which was filed with the USPTO on December 29, 2005, contained 9 claims, while the set of claims that the examiner has examined contains 10 claims. The amendments of the set of claims filed with this response are based on the set of claims as amended during PCT examination.

Our comments to the cited document in relation to the present invention as defined in the amended claim 1, is as follows.

The most relevant publication is Kristensen (US 6,024,529) which discloses a lifting device which can be mounted to a forklift truck. The lifting device is vacuum based.

In Friedrich (US 6,471,273 B1) there is disclosed a self-contained, portable lifting device comprising a magnet arranged in a housing. To the housing there is attached a hand-operated release mechanism comprising a cam mechanism with a wheel which is eccentrically mounted to the housing and a handle also attached, where the rel is used to release the magnet from a magnetic workpiece. When the magnet is released the handle must be pushed with a force towards the workpiece (the size of the force depending on how powerful the magnet is). Furthermore, the handoperated release mechanism is designed for magnets arranged in a single housing. When a number of separate magnets are arranged the release mechanism disclosed in Friedrich cannot be used unless a system is designed which can push a number of handles towards the workpiece simultaneously. Such a system is naturally neither disclosed nor suggested in Friedrich since the lifting device is designed to be portable.

In Meissner (US 4,348,055) there is disclosed a truck with a dump body. The dump body is lifted by a conventional hydraulic piston/cylinder arrangement. The midsection of two

levers are rotatably mounted to the dump body. The tailgate of the dump body is rotatably mounted to the levers in one end of the levers, while the other end of the levers are mounted to wires which are mounted to the truck in the other end. When the dump body is lifted the levers are held in a constant position relative to the ground whereby the tailgate is lifted and rotated relative to the dump body. The levers are designed to keep the tailgate in a constant position during the lifting of the dump body and are not pushing on any object during the process of lifting the dump body.

In order to arrive at the present invention, as defined in amended claim 1, a skilled person would have to combine features from all three cited publications together with a good deal of creativity. Both Friedrich and Meissner seem to disclose mechanisms which, in our opinion, are far from what a skilled person could be expected to adopt and modify in connection with the present invention. The release mechanism disclosed by Friedrich can not be transferred to the lifting device of Kristensen since the handle of the release mechanism of Friedrich must be pushed towards the workpiece (i.e. the object to be lifted). How that can be done when the release mechanism is to be actuated by a line attached to the handle is beyond our understanding (unless you first attach a pulley to the workpiece). Furthermore, the mechanism disclosed in Meissner is constructed such that the levers are kept in its position when the dump body is lifted. The lever is not used to push on any object or to release any object. We can neither see that a skilled person would consider the possibility of transferring the mechanism of the dump truck of Meissner to a lifting device for a forklift truck, crane or similar in the first place, nor to, thereafter, be able to combine the lifting device of Kristensen, the hand operated lifting device of Friedrich, which would have to be adapted, and the mechanism of the dump truck of Meissner, which would also have to be adapted, such that he or she would arrive at the present invention.

We therefore believe that the present invention was clearly been non-obvious for the skilled person at the time of filing of the priority applications.

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CLAIMS

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1. A device for mounting on an implement carrier such as a fork lift truck, hoisting crane or the like in order to move, hold or lift an object, wherein the device comprises
 - 5 - a carrier part which is mounted on the implement carrier preferably by the carrier part being in the form of a sleeve which is inserted on the implement carrier's fork structure, and
 - a holding part which is attached to the carrier part, the holding part being provided with at least one securing device with characteristics that make it possible to secure an object by contact between at least one of the object's surfaces and the securing device,
 - 10 - a trigger that ensures that the forces acting between the object's surface and the securing device are broken or discontinued, thus releasing the object,
 - 15 characterised in that the trigger is a guide part which is rotatably mounted in the holding part, where on being rotated the guide part pushes the object away from the securing device to a distance which is sufficient for the forces between the object and the securing device to decrease and the object to be released from the holding device.
- 20 2. A device according to claim 1, characterised in that the object that has to be moved, held or lifted is an object with a surface where at least some portions are smooth or an object composed of thin metal sheets, for example of the white goods type.
- 25 3. A device according to claim 1, characterised in that the securing device is one or more electromagnets (1) or permanent magnets (1).
4. A device according to claim 1, characterised in that the securing device is suction cups or similar devices that can create negative pressure.
- 30 5. A device according to claim 1, characterised in that the fork can be telescoped and that there is a fixed connection between a stationary part of the fork and the guide part, so that the guide part will be rotated when the fork is fully extended telescopically.
- 35 6. A device according to claim 1, characterised in that the trigger interrupts the voltage to the

electromagnet or causes the negative pressure to be discontinued, thus releasing the object.

- 5 7. A device according to claim 1,
characterised in that the trigger is operated manually or by means of an actuator.

8. A device according to claim 1,
characterised in that one or more supporting edges are permanently or removably mounted in the lower edge of the holding part.

- 10 9. A device according to claim 1,
characterised in that the holding part is oriented substantially vertically relative to the carrier part and/or that the holding part is mounted rotatably or preferably hingedly on the carrier part, thus enabling the holding part to be moved to another desired position and fixed in this new position.

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